

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00
DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05
FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /125 W
-----040456Z 057541 /23

R 031740Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0072
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE BE
USMISSION USBERLIN

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USEEC

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: EEC, EFIS, PLOS
SUBJ: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EC-USSR FISHERY RELATIONS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 4203

1. THE EC COUNCIL AGREED ON MAY 31 BY THE WRITTEN PRO-
CEDURE TECHNIQUE TO EXTEND FOR ONE MONTH THE INTERIM
ARRANGEMENTS WHICH EXPIRED MAY 31 TO PERMIT SOVIET, POLISH
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AND EAST GERMAN FISHERMEN TO OPERATE IN EC WATERS.
ALTHOUGH THE COMMISSION HAD RECOMMENDED THAT, BECAUSE OF
ALLEGED EARLIER OVERFISHING, EASTERN EUROPEAN CATCHES BE
CUT BACK BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF VESSELS PERMITTED TO
OPERATE IN EC WATERS, THE UK ARGUED AGAINST ANY SUCH
CHANGES WHICH MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT EC-USSR FISHERY
NEGOTIATIONS. A SLIGHT REDUCTION OF SOVIET FISHING

EFFORT OFF GREENLAND WAS APPROVED, IN PART TO CREATE A FAVORABLE POLITICAL CLIMATE FOR THE REFERENDUM TO BE HELD THERE JUNE 15 AND IN PART AS A CONSERVATION MEASURE FOR GREENLAND HALIBUT, COD AND SALMON.

2. SOVIET MINISTER OF FISHERIES ISHKOV IS SCHEDULED TO CALL ON EC COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH AND UK MINISTER OF STATE TOMLINSON (FOR THE EC COUNCIL) ON JUNE 7. THE JOINT MEETING, WHICH WAS REQUESTED BY ISHKOV, WAS ORIGINALLY SET BY THE EC FOR MAY 26 BUT ISHKOV WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND. OUR EC SOURCES INDICATE THAT THE EC MIGHT TRY TO HAVE THIS MEETING HELD IN THE BERLAYMONT BUILDING (COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS) RATHER THAN IN THE CHARLEMAGNE BUILDING (EC COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS) WHERE PAST USSR-EC NEGOTIATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE. THEY DO NOT EXCLUDE A POSSIBLE ISHKOV MEETING WITH COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS SINCE ISHKOV HAS REQUESTED SUCH MEETINGS AT THE LAST MINUTE IN THE PAST

3. THE ISHKOV MEETING WITH GUNDELACH AND TOMLINSON IS BEING DESCRIBED BY EC SOURCES AS PART OF EXPLORATORY DISCUSSIONS TO TRY TO ADVANCE THE STALLED EC-USSR FISHERY NEGOTIATIONS. THEY ANTICIPATE THAT ISHKOV WILL RAISE THE TERRITORIAL APPLICABILITY (BERLIN) CLAUSE OF THE AGREEMENT AND PROBABLY PRESS AGAIN FOR SOME INDICATION OF THE LEVEL OF SOVIET FISHING WHICH MAY BE PERMITTED UNDER THE EVENTUAL FISHERY AGREEMENT. LARGELY AT GERMAN INSISTENCE, GUNDELACH IS EXPECTED TO TAKE A STRONG STAND ON THE BERLIN CLAUSE BUT MIGHT BE WILLING TO EXPLORE WITH ISHKOV SOVIET PROPOSALS ON THIS ISSUE, ON IDENTIFICATION OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIGNATORIES AND ON THE FEW REMAINING PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT STILL IN SUSPENSE. THE BROAD LIMITS OF THE POSSIBLE ANNUAL SOVIET CATCH IN EC WATERS MIGHT ALSO BE COMMUNICATED TO ISHKOV WITH A CLEAR PROVISIO THAT NO COMMITMENTS CAN BE MADE NOR REALISTIC FIGURES PROVIDED UNTIL THE INTERNAL EC REGIME AND QUOTAS FOR MEMBER STATES HAVE BEEN DETERMINED AND THE EC-SOVIET FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED. THE EC ALSO PLANS TO PRESS ON THE SUBJECT OF EC FISHERY PROSPECTS IN SOVIET WATERS IF ISHKOV RAISES ANTICIPATED CATCHES AND WILL RAISE SOVIET FISHERY MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL MEASURES. THE FOURTH ROUND OF FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO TAKE PLACE AT AN UNDETERMINED DATE LATER IN JUNE. IRELAND IS PARTICULARLY OPPOSED TO GIVING THIRD COUNTRIES ADVANCE INDICATION OF POSSIBLE FUTURE CATCHES IN EC WATERS.

4. THE UK CHAIRMAN OF THE EXTERNAL FISHERY POLICY WORKING GROUP INFORMED THE MEMBER STATES THAT THE USSR HAS CONFIRMED TO THE EC PRESIDENCY COUNTRY (THE UK) ON OR ABOUT

JUNE 1 THAT EC VESSELS CAN CONTINUE TO FISH IN THE 200 MILE SOVIET FISHING ZONE PENDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A LICENSING REGIME BUT THAT CATCHES SHOULD BE RECORDED AND WOULD APPLY AGAINST EVENTUAL FISHING QUOTAS FOR 1977. THE USSR ALSO INFORMED THE UK THAT IT HAS ESTABLISHED DETAILED TECHNICAL CONSERVATION MEASURES, INCLUDING MAINTENANCE OF FISHING LOGS, SUBMISSION OF WEEKLY REPORTS, RESTRICTIONS ON MESH SIZES, OBLIGATION TO ACCEPT SOVIET BOARDING PARTIES TO INSPECT CATCHES, BAN ON SALMON FISHING, RESTRICTIONS ON CATCHES OF UNDERSIZED FISH AND OTHER LIMITATIONS ON CATCHES. THE SOVIETS ALSO TOLD THE UK THAT AN INCIDENT ON MAY 26 IN WHICH A BRITISH TRAWLER WAS ORDERED OUT OF SOVIET WATERS WAS AN "ERROR." HINTON

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